

What is claimed:

- 5           1.       A time slot synchronizer, comprising:  
            a sampler configured to:  
            successively sample a baseband signal comprising a plurality of frames, each  
            frame comprising a plurality of symbols;  
            divide each symbol into a plurality of sample bins;  
10           generate a first sample group from a first frame by sampling each symbol in  
            the first frame in a first and second sample bin; and  
            generate a second sample group from a second frame by sampling each  
            symbol in the second frame in a third and fourth sample bin, the third and fourth  
            sample bins being shifted a certain number of sample bins relative to the first and  
15           second sample bins, respectively,  
            a correlator configured to correlate the first and second groups of samples  
            with a stored sync word in order to generate a final correlation estimate, and  
            a comparator configured to compare the final correlation estimate to a  
            correlation threshold.  
20           2.       The synchronizer of claim 1, wherein the total number of sample bins  
            is eight.  
            3.       The synchronizer of claim 1, wherein the third and fourth sample bins  
25           are shifted two sample bins relative to the first and second sample bins, respectively.  
            4.       The synchronizer of claim 1, wherein each frame comprises 486  
            symbols.  
30           5.       The synchronizer of claim 1, wherein each frame is divided into a  
            plurality of time slots, there being a sync word at the beginning of each time slot,





13. The synchronizer of claim 10, wherein the sampler is configured to generate a second sample group series from a second plurality of frames that includes the second frame by sampling each frame in the second plurality of frames using the third and fourth sample bins, and wherein the correlator is configured to generate a second correlation estimate comprising the average correlation estimate for each frame in the second plurality of frames, and wherein the comparator is configured to use the second correlation estimate to generate the final correlation estimate.

14. The receiver of claim 10, configured to look for a different signal when the correlation estimate does not exceed the correlation threshold.

15. A method for time slot synchronization using a sampler configured to successively sample a baseband signal comprising a plurality of frames, each frame comprising a plurality of symbols, the method comprising:

dividing each symbol into a plurality of sample bins;

generating a first sample group from a first frame by sampling each symbol in the first frame in a first and second sample bin;

generating a second sample group from a second frame by sampling each symbol in the second frame in a third and fourth sample bin, the third and fourth sample bins being shifted a certain number of sample bins relative to the first and second sample bins, respectively;

correlating the first and second groups of samples with a stored sync word in order to generate a final correlation estimate; and

comparing the correlation estimate to a final correlation threshold.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein each frame is divided into a plurality of time slots, there being a sync word at the beginning of each time slot, and wherein correlation with the stored sync word only occurs for the samples generated from the sync words at the beginning of each time slot.

17. The method of claim 15, comprising:

generating a first sample group series from a first plurality of frames that  
includes the first frame by sampling each frame in the first plurality of frames using  
the first and second sample bins;

generating a first correlation estimate comprising the average correlation  
estimate for each frame in the first plurality of frames; and

using the first correlation estimate to generate the final correlation estimate.

18. The method of claim 13, comprising:

generating a second sample group series from a second plurality of frames  
that includes the second frame by sampling each frame in the second plurality of  
frames using the third and fourth sample bins;

generating a second correlation estimate comprising the average correlation  
estimate for each frame in the second plurality of frames; and

using the second correlation estimate to generate the final correlation  
estimate.